Welcome to
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

By God's example, St. John's invites and welcomes everyone to be ignited by the Spirit and to grow in God's love. May all those seeking love, acceptance and support find it here.

21st Sunday after Pentecost • October 18, 2026 • 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM

Harvest Home Sunday



In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Our Mission:
Ignited by Spirit, Growing in Love

We strive to be a community that is open to the Spirit of God that moves, changes and inspires us to connect with God and one another, everyday, everywhere.

WELCOME

We are so glad you are here with us this morning. We pray that you will meet God in worship and that your faith will be strengthened as you prepare to go out into the world in the coming week. If you are a guest with us this morning, welcome to the family! We would love to share information with you about St. John's - fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate or sign the guest book in the narthex so we can reach out!

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Leonard Gibeon, David Mounts, Renee Fels, Rebecca Jellen, Richard Ditzler, Alyson Harvey, Marie Wolfe, Mary Eberle, Brandon Blanchard, Elizabeth Brossett and family, Paige Seasock, Will Morgan, Barry Long, Jim Martin, Mike Wolf, Bob Schanely, Michael Svanson, Marilyn Little-Logan, Ed Bowlin, Josephine D'Amico, Bob Ernst, Bill Hutt, Gordie Moser, Serena Sellers, Sal Aleide, Brian Bealer and Tom Cooney.

Names are kept on the prayer list for three weeks unless specifically requested by the family or for those struggling through long-term illness or treatment. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 215-234-4888 or stj.stown@verizon.net.

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to observe the prelude time as one of reverent silence.

PRELUDE Holy Manna - arr. Sue
Handbell Quartet

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN ELW 693 Come, ye thankful people, come

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you

KYRIE





OPENING PRAYER

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

At the conclusion of the reading:
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

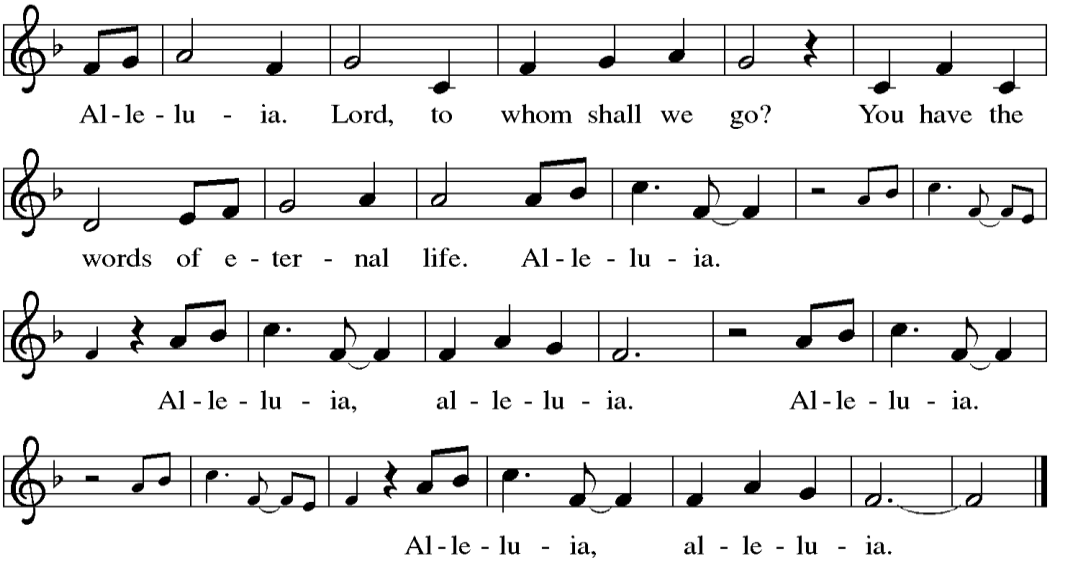
PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9



[1] Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
[2] **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
[3] Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4] **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods.
[5] As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
[6] **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
[7] Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
[8] **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.
[9] Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 22:15-22

At the beginning of the reading:
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the reading:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON Pastor Rebecca Schanely

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 686 We Give but Thine Own

APOSTLE'S CREED
Together with people of faith in all times and places, we profess our faith with the words of the creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each prayer petition will end with the phrase:
Hear us, O God:
Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ THE MEAL +

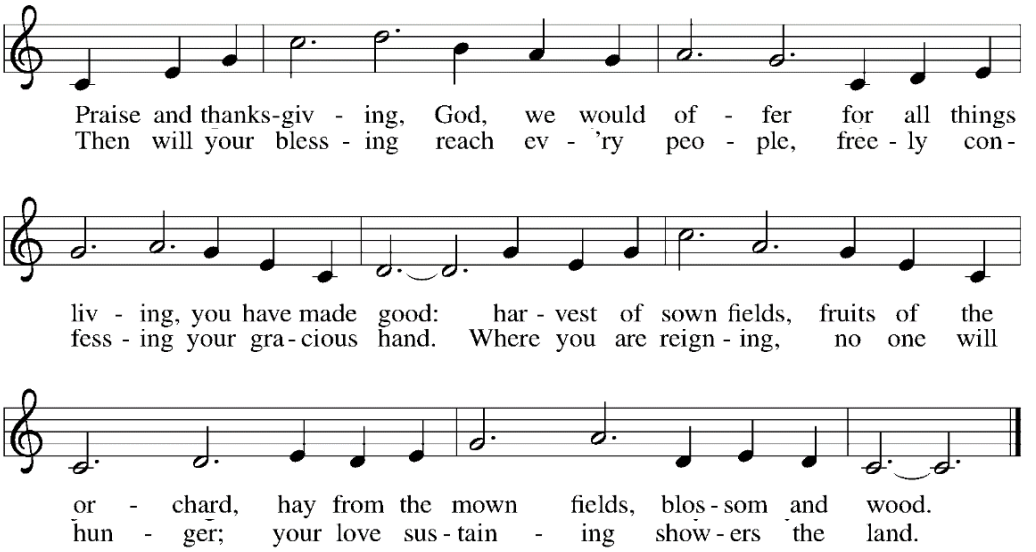
OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING O Come, my Soul with Singing
-Johann G. Ebeling, harm. Ulrich S. Leupold

Vocal Trio
Caroline Pinkstone, soprano, Kamryn Wanner, alto and Liam Pinkstone, baritone

Please rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER
God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

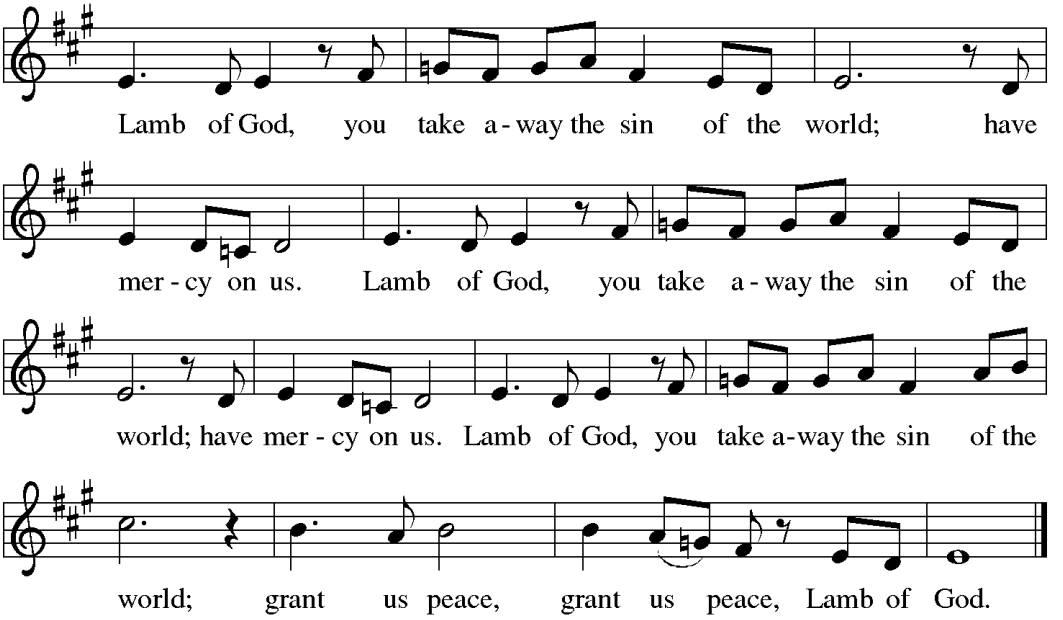
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER
As Jesus taught us, we are bold to pray,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us

our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



INVITATION TO THE TABLE
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF COMMUNION
Communion will be shared continuously. Please come forward down the center aisle and return to your seat by the side aisle. You will receive the bread from the pastor and then be invited to take a pre-filled cup from the tray held by the communion assistant. Wine is in the clear cups and grape juice is in the purple cups. Empty cups can be placed in the bowls at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. All are welcome!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION ELW 478 Father, we thank you

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen

+ SENDING +

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING
The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
Amen.

The God of grace
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 655 Son of God, Eternal Savior

DISMISSAL
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Praise Him! Praise Him! - setting by Humphrey Turner

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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE		
Worship Attendance 10/11/2026 – 10:15 am 46, Zoom - 3		
	Total received between 10/04/2026 – 10/11/2026 $6,617.14	Amount Needed per 2 weeks in 2026 $11,656
Weekly average is based on the 2026 budget. The above numbers include electronic giving. Mint duty is being done every other week.		

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, October 18	Trunk or Treat, Fall Fling 2-4 PM
Monday, October 19	Soup & Study 5:30 PM
Tuesday, October 20	Confirmation Rehearsal & CAT Chat 6:30 PM
Thursday, October 22	Bible Study 1:30 – 3:30 PM St. Mark's church
Friday, October 23	New Adventures 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Gym
Saturday, October 24	Heavenly Helpers Kauffman's Chicken BBQ meal pick up 12 – 2 PM
Sunday, October 25	Worship 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM w/zoom Joy Miller memorial, 1 PM visitation 1:30 pm service

Ignited by Spirit
Growing in Love

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING THIS SUNDAY

8:00 AM – Paul Barndt, Reader
Jay & Evey Koffel, Ushers
Communion – Shannon Renninger

10:15 AM – Cathy Sweeney, Reader
John Hovanec & Joyce Foesig, Ushers
Erika Haldeman & David Ramil, A/V team
Kevin Schanely & Erika Haldeman, Communion

COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Ramil, Council President
Shannon Renninger, Council Vice-President
Robyn Schramm, Council Secretary
Mike Herm, Council Treasurer
Tony Aleide, Finance
Brandon Bolton, Property
Joyce Foesig, Staff
Sheila Hercek, Outreach
Travis Hobson, Marketing and Communications
John Hovanec, Faith Formation
Nate Schramm, Youth Representative
Mike Wolf, Worship and Music

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Jamie Nonkovic, Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation
Bob Ernst, Facilities Manager
Michael Herm, Treasurer

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